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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/698,187	10/31/2003	Jason O. Adams	6232-237 (180086)	3192

7590 10/28/2005

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EXAMINER

LE, THANH TAM T

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 10/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/698,187

Applicant(s)

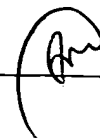
ADAMS ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh-Tam T. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12,23-31 and 36-47 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12,23-31 and 36-47 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/21/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-12, 28-31, 38-44 and 46-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wen-Te (5,454,729).

Regarding claims 1, 7, 28 and 38-39, Wen-Te, figure 3, discloses a system for supplying current from a source of electrical power to a dimmable electrical lighting load, comprising:

- a receptacles (20) adapted for receipt of a corresponding blade of a compatible plug (10), the receptacle arranged to be supplied with electrical power regulated by a dimmer, the receptacle comprising:
- an electrical contact (23) located for contact with a blade of the compatible plug to establish an electrical connection between the blade and the electrical contact, the electrical contact dimensioned and oriented for compliance with an industry standard configuration; and
- a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation (30) and a corresponding plug formation (31), the receptacle formation of the mating formation pair dimensioned for contact with a general-use plug compliant with the industry standard configuration and lacking the corresponding plug

formation from establishing electrical connection with the receptacle, the receptacle formation of the mating formation pair allowing the compatible plug defining the corresponding plug formation and other wise complying with the industry standard configuration to establish electrical connection with the receptacle by an amount sufficient.

Wen-Te discloses the claimed invention as described above except for the receptacle formation when contact with a general-use plug of lacking the plug formation to prevent a blade of the general-use plug from contacting an electrical contact of the receptacle thereby preventing the general-sue plug from establishing an electrical connection with the receptacle.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wen-Te to have the receptacle formation with a length is longer enough to preventing the general-sue plug from establishing an electrical connection with the receptacle, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233, in order to protect the electrical connection between the plug and the receptacle.

Regarding claim 2, where in a full insertion of the compatible plug into the receptacle results in an overlapping contact between the electrical contact and the blade of the compatible plug, the overlapping contact having a length, and wherein the receptacle formation comprising a projection (30) extending from the receptacle to a height that is greater than the length of the overlapping contact thereby preventing

insertion of the general-use plug that lacks the corresponding plug formation by an amount sufficient to establish the electrical connection with the receptacle.

Regarding claims 3 and 30, wherein the electrical contact is a first electrical contact, the current supply system further comprising a second electrical contact (another 23) and a non-conductive face member covering the electrical contacts, the face member defining first and second openings for receipt the first and second blades, wherein the projection extends outwardly from the face member between the first and second openings.

Regarding claim 4, the projection is elongated in a direction that is substantially parallel to a height defined by at least one of the first and second openings.

Regarding claim 5, the projection including a middle portion and end portions, wherein the middle portion extends from the face member to a distance is greater than the end portions to define a convex configuration.

Regarding claim 6, wherein the first and second electrical contacts are arranged to supply power to a circuit that including a load connectable to the compatible plug.

Regarding claims 8-10 and 27, the opening and blade respectively defining receptacle and blade formations each define a cross section having a dimension that is reduced with respect to a corresponding dimension provided by the industry standard configuration, and including a width and a height.

Regarding claims 11 and 12, the receptacle is polarized and the opening defining

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the receptacle formation controls access to a hot electrical contact and including a common housing with at least one receptacle compliant with the industry standard configuration.

Regarding claim 29, the projection is non-conductive.

Regarding claim 31, a grounding conductor.

Regarding claim 40, the plug (10) including a plug body defining the plug formation and wherein the plug formation extends to a periphery of the plug body.

Regarding claim 41, the receptacle including first and second openings each defining a cross section having a height and a width, each defining a central axis with respect to the blade height and aligned with each other.

Regarding claims 42-44 and 46-47, the receptacle formation comprising a projection defining a top, wherein a distance between the top of the projection and the electrical contact is greater than approximately 0.618 inches.

3. Claims 23-27, 36-37 and 45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Royer (4,293,733) in view of Wen-Te (5,454,729).

Regarding claims 23 and 36-37, Royer, figures 1 and 2, discloses a receptacle comprising:

- a first receptacle (18A) complying with a general-use industry standard configuration for receptacles, the first receptacle adapted to receive a general-use plug (30) complying with the industry standard configuration and establish an electrical connection to supply non-reduced voltage;

- a second receptacle (18B) having at least one electrical contact, the second receptacle configured to receive a compatible plug (40) having at least one electrical contact for electrical connection with the electrical contact of the second receptacle; and

Royer discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation and a plug formation respectively carried by the second receptacle and the compatible plug, and the receptacle formation dimensioned to prevent an electrical contact of the general-use plug.

Wen-Te, figure 3, discloses a receptacle (20) having a projection (30) and a plug (10) having a slot (31), the projection and the slot read on for a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation and a plug formation. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Royer to have the projection and the slot disposed on the receptacle and the plug, respectively, as taught by Wen-Te, in order to attach the plug to the socket firmly without being removed.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Wen-Te to have the receptacle formation with a length is longer enough to preventing the general-sue plug from establishing an electrical connection with the receptacle, since it has been held that where the general conditions of a claim are disclosed in the prior art, discovering the optimum or workable ranges involves only routine skill in the art. In re Aller, 105 USPQ 233, in order to protect the electrical connection between the plug and the receptacle.

Regarding claim 24, wherein the compatible plug is capable of insertion into the first receptacle.

Regarding claim 25, it is noted that Wen-Te discloses the receptacle formation is defined by a projection (30).

Regarding claim 26, Royer discloses the second receptacle comprising a second electrical contact and a non-conductive face member covering the first and second electrical contacts. The face member having first and second openings to permit access to the first and second electrical contacts.

Regarding claim 27, the receptacle formation is defined by an opening dimensioned to prevent insertion of a corresponding plate of the plug complying with the industry standard configuration.

Regarding claim 45, the receptacle formation comprising a projection defining a top, wherein a distance between the top of the projection and the electrical contact is greater than approximately 0.618 inches.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 23, 36 and 38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.



***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

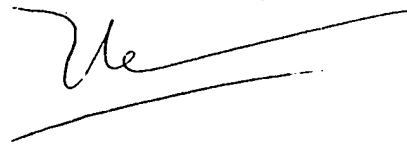
6. A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.

8. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Thanh-Tam T. Le  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839

TL.  
10/26/05.